

From: Bonnie Ricca [mailto:[bonster20@earthlink.net](mailto:bonster20@earthlink.net)]  
Sent: Monday, December 03, 2007 9:02 AM  
To: Melissa Miller-Henson  
Subject: Please protect our MPAs

Melissa,

Hi there.

I'm a volunteer for the Friends of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. I think the reserve is an incredibly special place that provides an amazing outdoor educational experience, and I want to help protect it for future generations by instilling current generations--especially children--with a sense of wonder and responsibility for its well-being. During the process of designating Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) for the North Central Coast of California, please provide the strongest possible protections for the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

The "ribbon" proposal put forward by recreational fishers will simply continue the problems that I already see at the reserve: It will be difficult for our already-overtaxed rangers to enforce (volunteers can't check licenses, but we can help to enforce rules that apply to everyone). Furthermore, it will continue to undermine the recovery of the monkey face eel and rock prickleback eel populations. Lastly, it's very hard to explain to visitors--especially to children--that this is a reserve and they are not allowed to harm or remove anything, but that people with fishing licenses don't have to follow the same rules!

Thank you for your time.

Bonnie Ricca  
Volunteer Naturalist  
Friends of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve